IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0001] with the following:

[0001] This application is a divisional of copending U.S. Application No. 10/371,385 filed on 21 February 2003 which is a divisional of copending U. S. Application No. 09/890,559 filed on 01 August 2001, now U. S. Patent No. 6,740,679 B1, which was the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/US00/03022 filed on 03 February 2000 which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/119,038 which was filed on 05 February 1999.

Please replace Paragraph [0012] with the following:

[0012] In one aspect, the present invention is a method of accelerating the growth rate of a prematurely-born human infant by administering to the infant a seven carbon fatty acid compound or derivative thereof, wherein the compound or derivative thereof is able to readily enter the mitochondrion without special transport enzymes. In a preferred method, the seven carbon fatty acid compound comprises n-heptanoic acid. In another preferred method, the seven carbon fatty acid compound comprises a triglyceride comprising n-heptanoic acid, for example, triheptanoin. In a preferred method, the derivative is a five carbon fatty acid chain. In another preferred method, the derivative is selected from the group consisting of 4-methylhexanoate, 4-methylhexenoate, 3-hydroxy-4-methylhexanoate, 5-methylhexanoate, 5-methylhexenoate and 3-hydroxy-5-methylhexanoate. In a preferred method, the compound or derivative thereof is capable of being broken down by normal β-oxidation in humans to methylbutyric acid. In another preferred method, the compound or derivative thereof is capable of being broken down by normal β-oxidation in humans to isovaleric acid. In another preferred method, the compound or derivative is capable of being broken down by normal β-oxidation in humans to n-valeryl-CoA. In another preferred method, the compound or derivative is capable of being broken down by normal β-oxidation in humans to propionyl-CoA in one or more oxidative procedures. Preferably the compound or derivative thereof is provided to the human infant in an amount comprising at least about 25% of the dietary caloric requirement for the infant. In a preferred

method, the compound or derivative is provided orally. The compound or derivative can also be provided parenterally, or ~~intraperitoneally~~.

Please replace Paragraph [0013] with the following:

[0013] In another aspect, the present invention is a nutritional supplement suitable for humans or human infants, the nutritional supplement comprising a seven-carbon fatty acid chain compound or a derivative thereof. In a preferred nutritional supplement, the compound comprises n-heptanoic acid. In another preferred nutritional supplement, the compound comprises a trigyceride comprising n-heptanoic acid, for example, triheptanoin. In a preferred nutritional supplement, the derivative is a five-carbon fatty acid chain compound. In another preferred nutritional supplement, the derivative is selected from the group consisting of 4-methylhexanoate, 4-methylhexenoate, 3-hydroxy-4-methylhexanoate, 5-methylhexanoate, 5-methylhexenoate and 3-hydroxy-5-methylhexanoate. In a preferred nutritional supplement, the compound or derivative thereof is capable of being broken down by normal β-oxidation in humans to methylbutyric acid. In another preferred nutritional supplement, the compound or derivative thereof is capable of being broken down by normal β-oxidation in humans to isovaleric acid. In another preferred nutritional supplement, the compound or derivative is capable of being broken down by normal β-oxidation in humans to n-valeryl-CoA. In yet another preferred nutritional supplement, the compound or derivative is capable of being broken down by normal β-oxidation in humans to propionyl-CoA in one or more oxidative procedures. Preferably, the nutritional supplement is suitable for oral ingestion. In another preferred nutritional supplement, the compound or derivative is suitable for parenteral administration. Preferably, the nutritional supplement is a part of a total parenteral nutrition regimen, more preferably wherein the compound or derivative comprises from about 15 to about 40% of the calories of the total parenteral nutrition regimen; even more preferably, the compound or derivative comprises from about 20 to about 35% of the calories of the total parenteral nutrition regimen; and most preferably, the compound or derivative comprises about 25% of the calories of the total parenteral nutrition regimen. ~~In another preferred nutritional supplement, the compound or derivative is suitable for administration intraperitoneally~~. A preferred nutritional supplement can also comprise a dietary infant formula comprising low fat and/or reduced long-

chain fatty acids, more preferably wherein the compound or derivative thereof comprises about 15 to about 40% of a predetermined amount of total calories per serving; even more preferably, the compound or derivative thereof comprises about 20 to about 35% of a predetermined amount of total calories per serving; and most preferably, the compound or derivative comprises about 25% or total calories per serving. The nutritional supplement can also further comprise a foodstuff wherein the nutritional supplement enhances the energy potential of the supplement/foodstuff combination gram for gram. The nutritional supplement can also further comprise a beverage.

Please replace Paragraph [0073] with the following:

[0073] Triheptanoin can be obtained by the esterification of heptanoic acid and glycerol by any means known in the art. Triheptanoin is also commerically available through Condea Chemie GmbH (Witten, Germany), now Sasol (Witten, Germany) as Special Oil 107.

Please replace Paragraph [0075] with the following:

[0075] The seven-carbon triglycerides of the present invention can be administered orally[[,]] or parenterally~~, or intraperitoneally~~. Preferably, it can be administered via ingestion of a food substance containing a seven-carbon fatty acid source such as triheptanoin at a concentration effective to achieve therapeutic levels. Alternatively, it can be administered as a capsule or entrapped in liposomes, in solution or suspension, alone or in combination with other nutrients, additional sweetening and/or flavoring agents. Capsules and tablets can be coated with sugar, shellac and other enteric agents as is known.